

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SS-15 SP-02

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3591

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5610

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF, WA, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PERM
REP BOTHA

1. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN RECEIVED AMBASSADOR BOTHA AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST, NOVEMBER 3. BOTHA SAID HE HAD COME AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WHOSE PRESS HAD ALSO ATTACKED HIM, TO CRITICIZE REMARKS MADE BY UNITED STATES DELEGATES MITCHELL. BOTHA TOOK EXCEPTION TO MITCHELL'S STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 23, IN WHICH HE DEPLORED THE DETENTION OF THOSE WHOSE ONLY ACT IS OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN SAID THE US GOVERNMENT UNHESITATINGLY SUPPORTED MR. MITCHELL'S STAND.

2. BOTHA THEN CRITICIZED WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE THE INPLICIT OFFER IN MITCHELL'S STATEMENT TO SUPPORT GREATER AFRICAN PRESSURES AGAINST APARTHEID IN RETURN FOR AFRICAN EFFORTS TO DEFEAT THE ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION IN PLENARY. BOTHA POINTED OUT THAT ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS WERE EXCELLENT; THAT ISRAEL HAD ASKED SOUTH AFRICA TO ELEVATE ITS CONSULATE GENERAL TO EMBASSY STATUS (BOTHA SAID HE HAD RECOMMENDED AGAINST IT).

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SOUTH AFRICA HAD A LARGE JEWISH POPULATION, GENEROUS

IN ITS CHARITY TO ISRAEL.

3. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN REPLIED THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN OUR INTENTION AND THAT BOTHA WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH WHOM WE HAD SPOKEN WHO HAD DRAWN THIS CONCLUSION. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE OMNIBUS APARTHEID RESOLUTION IN THE SPC NOVEMBER 4: THIS WAS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT BOTHA'S HYPOTHESIS WAS INCORRECT.

4. BOTHA TURNED TO NAMIBIA. HE DESCRIBED THE DECLARATION OF INTENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AS REPRESENTING GREAT PROGRESS. WHY DID THE US INSIST UPON BACKING SWAPO? BOTHA WAS REMINDED THAT US AND UN POSITIONS DIFFER IN THIS CASE. WE DID NOT RECOGNIZE SWAPO AS THE SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. FURTHER, WE RECENTLY HAD RECEIVED, IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES, VISITING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

5. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON NAMIBIA, BOTHA SAID THAT HE NOW PLANNED (ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH PRETORIA) TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL INDICATING THAT SINCE SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN DEPRIVED OF ITS RIGHTS ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SAG WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE, AND WOULD NOT DO SO UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA'S RIGHTS WERE RESTORED. BOTHA ASKED AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN FOR HIS VIEWS CONCERNING THIS TACTIC. WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE BOTHA TREAT OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS OR OTHER MATTERS AS "ADVICE," BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL REACTION TO BOTHA'S PLAN.
MOYNIHAN

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